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W. Lane Lanford
Executive Director



Public Utility Commission of Texas

February 4, 2002

William F. Caton
Acting Secretary
Office of the Secretary TW-A306
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Irene Flannery
Vice President, High Cost & Low Income Division
Universal Service Administrative Company
2120 L Street, N.W. Suite 600
Washington, D.C. 20037

**RE: *Clarification Regarding State Certification Filing by the Texas PUC on
September 19, 2001*¹**
CC Docket No. 96-45

To the Filing Representatives:

This letter serves as a response to Irene Flannery's request for clarification regarding the filing made by the Public Utility Commission of Texas (Texas PUC) on September 19, 2001 regarding State Certification of Rural High Cost Carriers, CC Docket No. 96-45. As part of the certification process, the Texas PUC included in its filing **both** rural and non-rural carriers which are eligible to receive federal support. The Texas PUC included these non-rural carriers in its' filing as a safeguard measure to ensure that all carriers eligible to receive federal support have been appropriately certified.

Accordingly, the list below represents those *non-rural carriers* that were included in the September 19, 2001 filing, and who have certified with the Texas PUC that all federal high-cost funds will be used only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended, consistent with section 254 (e) of the Federal Telecommunications Act, and pursuant to 47 C.F.R. 54.313, *State certification of support for non-rural carriers*.

1. Cumby Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (CLEC)
2. FEC Communications, L.L.P.

¹ The Texas PUC understands that this letter serves as merely a clarification to its' filing in CC Docket No. 96-45, and that all companies certified in the September 19, 2001 remain eligible for federal support and have met the certification filing deadline.

3. GTE Southwest, Inc. d/b/a Verizon Southwest
4. Nortex Telecom, L.L.C.
5. Santa Rosa Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (CLEC)
6. W.T. Services, Inc. (wholly owned subsidiary of West Texas Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc.)
7. Western Wireless Corporation
8. XIT Telecommunications & Technology, Inc.

If there are any questions regarding this matter, please contact Tina Gabel in our Policy Development Division, (512) 936-7257.

Respectfully submitted,

/original signed/

Pam Whittington
Director of Policy Development Division